As regards the immediate letting in of water into the Puttery tank, it is not a matter which is so easy of solution as you seem to think. We have stored water in the Kodayar in the interests of irrigation. I have handed over your memorial to the Chief Engineer and I have asked him to see whether water could be let into that tank, in connection with the ensuing Mandakad festival.

80. Suggestions for improving the trade and sanitation of Colachel.

Mr. M. Nilakanta Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) represented that the town of Colachel had been a commercial centre from the time of its occupation by the Dutch and that even now four European Firms were having their business there. In view of the importance of the town, a canal known as the Ananda Victoria Martanda Varma Canal was opened and the trade of the place developed when it had land and water connection with the capital. Subsequently, when the canal silted up and it was auctioned away by the Government, the merchants had to transport their goods by the land route alone. They now found it very difficult to transmit these articles to other places owing to the exhorbitant rate of cart hire prevalent after the war. The Member referred to the survey of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil railway that was being conducted and requested that arrangements might be made to connect Colachel with the railway so as to improve the trade of the town.

He stated that Colachel was a municipal town with a fairly large population numbering nearly 8,000 inhabitants. He represented that the extension of the railway from Trivandrum to Nagercoil should be so constructed as to touch that important commercial town, alike in the interests of the Government and the people.

He next stated that the provision of a hospital in that town was an imperative necessity. The subject had been brought to the notice of the Government even as early as the sixteenth session of the Assembly, but no action had been taken on the representation so far. The provision of an Ayurveda Vaidyasala was another urgent need of the locality.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Nilakanta Pillai, the question of taking the Trivandrum-Nagercoil Railway line through Colachel or near it is engaging the attention of the Government seriously, and if it is at all possible and if it appears distinctly advantageous, Government will approve of a line which goes as near Colachel as possible.

Then in regard to the conversion of the local dispensary into a hospital, I do not think that it is a matter of great urgency. I have seen the dispensary myself. It is in a good locality and I have given general instructions that in all dispensaries there should be emergency wards. Colachel is within short distances from, and has easy access to, Nagercoil, Neyyur, Thuckalai and other places where there are big hospitals. I therefore do not think that a hospital there is immediately necessary. If, luckily, you get a railway near Colachel and your town becomes more important, the question of the conversion of the dispensary there into a hospital will have to be considered. I do not think that it is a matter for immediate consideration.

As regards the establishment of an Ayurveda Vaidyasala there, the Director of Ayurveda says that it is not necessary to have one at Colachel. I do not agree with him. I think that Colachel is important enough to have an aided Ayurveda Vaidyasala, and I shall ask the Director of Ayurveda to include Colachel in the list of places where aided Vaidyasalas should be established next year.

81. Needs of the Padmanabhapuram Municipality.

Mr. K. N. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram) began his representation by saying that the town of Padmanabhapuram, besides being the ancient capital of Travancore, was the seat of the Division from the time of its constitution till its abolition two years ago. Besides the Division Cutcherry, there were the District Hospital, the Munsiff's court, the Taluk Cutcherry, the first and the second Class Magistrates' courts, the Sub-Registrar's office, the Sanketam Cutcherry and the Police station. All these institutions were one by one transferred from the Fort to Thuckalai, the only remnant left being the new Additional District Magistrates' court. The Municipal office and the Panchayat and

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